



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Rev. Samuel Butcher, D.D.; Rev. Joseph Carson, D.D.; John Kells Ingram, LL.D.; Digby P. Starkey, M.A.; John Anster, LL.D.; J. F. Waller, LL.D.; and D. F. M'Carthy, Esq.: on the Committee of Polite Literature.

John T. Gilbert, Esq.; Rev. William Reeves, D.D.; Eugene Curry, Esq.; William R. Wilde, M.D.; George Petrie, LL.D.; W. H. Hardinge, Esq.; and Rev. Jas. H. Todd, D.D.: on the Committee of Antiquities.

TREASURER.—Rev. Joseph Carson, D.D.

SECRETARY OF THE ACADEMY.—Rev. William Reeves, D.D.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL.—John Kells Ingram, LL.D.

SECRETARY OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.—Rev. Samuel Butcher, D.D.

LIBRARIAN.—John T. Gilbert, Esq.

CLERK, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, AND CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM.—Edward Clibborn, Esq.

The Rev. James H. Todd, D.D., then left the chair, which having been occupied by the Very Rev. Charles Graves, D.D.,

It was moved by Sir W. R. Hamilton, LL.D., and seconded by the Rev. William Reeves, D.D., and

RESOLVED,—That the cordial acknowledgments of this Academy are due, and are hereby presented, to their late President, the Rev. James Henthorn Todd, D.D., for the dignity and courtesy with which he has filled the chair, and the untiring zeal which he has displayed in promoting the objects of the Academy.

The President nominated under his hand and seal the following

VICE-PRESIDENTS.—Sir William R. Hamilton, LL.D.; Rev. Samuel Butcher, D.D.; Wm. R. Wilde, M.D.; and the Rev. James Henthorn Todd, D.D.

The Academy then adjourned.

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1861.

VERY REV. CHARLES GRAVES, D.D., President, in the Chair.

THE HON. JUDGE BERWICK; Alfred Hudson, M.D.; George Nixon, M.D.; William J. Sargeant, Esq.; J. S. Sloane, Esq., C.E.; and Joseph Wilson, Esq.; were elected members of the Academy.

The PRESIDENT delivered the following Inaugural Address:—

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—In entering upon the office of President of the Royal Irish Academy, I feel that it is my first duty to return you my sincere and cordial thanks for the great honour which you have conferred upon me in calling me to this Chair. That honour, with the responsibility which accompanies it, would

be a burden heavier than I have strength to bear, if I were not supported, as I trust I shall be, by the same friendly confidence which has for so long a time lightened my labours as Secretary of the Council and Secretary of the Academy. The general concurrence of your suffrages in my favour is a proof that you expect me to use, for the benefit of the Academy, the experience which half a lifetime has enabled me to acquire. For nearly a quarter of a century I have been a member of this society, seldom inactive, and always deeply interested in what concerns its welfare. This acquaintance with the affairs of the Academy has been, I doubt not, my chief recommendation to you. Perhaps I was believed to possess another claim upon your favourable consideration. It was supposed that my own habits of thought rendered me capable of sympathising in the studies of members belonging to the different sections of the Academy. In this view, at least, my friends are not mistaken. Whilst I look up with respect to the attainments of brother Academicians who are my superiors in every separate department of science and literature, I have with them all a community of sentiment which enables me sometimes to cooperate, and always to sympathise; and thus I may be capable, in some degree, of representing that principle which was paramount in the minds of our founders. The Academy was designed to foster studies differing in their directions, but tending towards a common point. It was believed by those who laid the foundation of the Academy that its end would be best promoted by the alliance which has been here established between men of science, men of letters, antiquaries, and historians. To this belief I cling; and whilst I am permitted to hold the office which you have just conferred upon me, I hope I shall never do anything to loosen the bonds which ought to unite us. We have all witnessed the great advantages which result from the cooperation of persons engaged in like pursuits. We enjoy that advantage here, and many can bear witness to the pleasure and profit with which our members exchange information on the subjects of their common study. But we must not lose sight of, nor underrate, the benefits flowing from intellectual converse between parties engaged in pursuits of different kinds. Between all the various branches of study there is a wondrous correlation. In their actual matter and substance they are so connected, that every day furnishes some fresh instance of discovery made in one science or art by reference to phenomena observed in another. But, besides this, there are characteristic peculiarities in the methods of investigation used by scientific men, the knowledge of which would be most precious to persons engaged in researches of a wholly different kind. The antiquaries among us have been indebted to our mineralogists, chemists, and physiologists, for essential aid in the prosecution of their studies; I might even mention cases where the mere mathematician has come to their assistance. The boundary which separates archæology from polite literature is so faintly marked, that we are sometimes at a loss to determine to which of the two classes a paper belongs. But, over and above all this, there are cases where the antiquary, too hasty in forming hypotheses, and too prone to

follow the indications that seem to favour them, requires to learn a lesson from the natural philosopher, trained in the austere school of patient induction. The man of science may be less willing to admit the possibility of deriving instruction from the antiquary or the man of letters. And yet even he will find himself at times dependent upon them for help, and always the better, as he partakes more of their intellectual culture. Eliminate the literary constituents from the minds of Newton and Leibnitz, Herschel, Whewell, and Humboldt, and you will not leave the elements of their scientific power unimpaired. It is because the lines of truth meet and cross one another in every direction, that human sagacity possesses its wondrous power in unravelling the mysteries of science, history, and language. Who that remembers what it has accomplished in our lifetime will set limits to its achievements? And who could calculate the rapidity of its progress, when a more perfect communication is established between those who are conducting inquiries of different kinds? To know what others have done, or have failed to do, might just complete the chain of our own experiments and reasoning.

We have heard some complaints within the last few years of occasional irregularity in the supply of papers at our meetings. Under any circumstance this might be expected. Intellectual labours cannot be carried on with the uniformity of mechanical work. But I think that the fact to which I have referred is not by any means attributable to a falling off in intellectual activity amongst ourselves, or to a general disinclination on our part to submit to the Academy the results of literary and scientific investigation. It is owing, I am persuaded, to the establishment in Dublin of a number of separate societies intended to promote the cultivation of distinct branches of science. Their operation sufficiently accounts for a diminished supply of papers in some departments of the Academy. Members are unwilling to lay before us in this room papers neither announcing considerable advances in science nor discussing questions of difficulty. On the other hand, they do not hesitate to present fragmentary communications to societies having specific objects, where their value is more immediately recognised. I, therefore, look without apprehension upon this withdrawal of papers from the Academy. It will, I hope, continue to be the place where remarkable discoveries will be announced, and where philosophers will unfold their mature views of classification and method. Let us also take comfort from the reflection, that in matters of this kind there are fluctuations almost resembling those of fashion. Personal and temporary influences affect the manifestations of intellect. If we observe a stagnation in one section of the Academy, we have good reason to look forward to healthy reaction. The constitution of the Academy is sound; instead of blaming it, let us endeavour to increase its resources, and to stimulate its energies.

We have no right to count upon seeing the annals of the Academy marked, during the coming lustrum, by the appearance of such works as have in former times awakened the wholesome pride with which we greet the triumphs of our fellow-Academicians. Such papers as "Ha-

milton's *Memoirs on Quaternions*," or "Petrie's *Essay on the Round Towers*," fill a wide space in the literary and scientific history of Ireland: and even if their authors were to furnish us with no further proofs of their great powers, we might rest contented with what they had done for the reputation of the Academy.

Though it may be thought unreasonable, I still cherish the hope that from these veteran Academicians we may receive other papers, as remarkable as any which they have yet produced. If this expectation of mine be disappointed, other Irishmen will arise to run the same race, and to take up the torch which they have long borne with such distinguished honour.

Since the commencement of the present year, the members of the Academy have welcomed the appearance of the second part of Dr. Wilde's Catalogue of the articles in our Museum. I have so often given expression to the anxiety with which I regard the accomplishment of this work, that I should expose myself to the charge of wearisome repetition, if I now dwelt upon the arguments which have been used to recommend it to the support of the Academy. I need not remind you that, previous to the preparation of this Catalogue, we did not possess even an inventory of the articles in our Museum such as would suffice for their identification, and enable us to check them over from time to time, and ascertain whether we had not incurred losses either through fraud or negligence. If we have not suffered in either way, our exemption has been owing merely to the diligence and watchfulness of our curator, Mr. Clibborn. But we had need of something more than a common inventory. We required a catalogue which might serve as a manual for the instruction of visitors, by the help of which they might learn the nature, so far as it is known, of the different objects displayed in the Museum. We wished that those who had spent a morning in it should carry away with them antiquarian information and taste, which would be profitable to them elsewhere. A person of ordinary intelligence, acquainted with the general nature of our Irish antiquities, would meet with many opportunities of bringing his knowledge into useful exercise. Ignorant hands have destroyed relics almost priceless in the estimation of the antiquary, whilst here and there we have seen instances of the good effects produced by even a little knowledge in saving objects of interest from destruction. I will adduce an example, to illustrate this general observation. Some few years ago a person engaged in building a farm-house, near Killarney, opened a subterraneous gallery known to exist in an adjoining rath, and made use of all the large stones which it contained in the construction of his house. Had any one who took a part in this act ever visited a museum, and seen one or two of the Ogham monuments, of which we here possess good specimens, he would have noticed that several of the large stones which formed the crypt bore upon them long and perfectly preserved inscriptions in the Ogham character. Unfortunately, there was no one present who was aware of the interest attaching to these monuments; they were, therefore, ruthlessly handed over to be used by the masons as they thought fit. Some were partially dressed, and the inscriptions defaced;

others were broken up; only two or three remained to bear witness to the value of the entire group. I found one built into a drain, and two others employed as lintel-stones over the windows of the farm-house. It is my belief that this crypt contained a collection of inscribed monuments presenting a series of names which would have been of interest in illustrating the history, the topography, and the language of the country. In general these inscriptions disappoint us—each of them ordinarily exhibits nothing more than one or two proper names; but from a group of names, belonging, in all probability, to persons connected with each other and with the place, we might expect to deduce conclusions of interest and importance. The number of instances of this kind which have fallen under my own observation is very large. The Ogham inscriptions being not only illegible by most persons, but frequently escaping observation from their indistinctness, and the stones on which they are cut being, from their large size, available for various purposes, monuments of this class are peculiarly liable to be lost or destroyed for want of intelligence in the persons who happen to meet with them. It would be easy to multiply cases like the one which I have noticed, where objects of great antiquarian interest have shared the same fate. Earthenware urns, articles of flint, iron, and even bronze, are often contemptuously thrown aside by finders, who think that nothing but gold or silver is worthy of preservation. Amongst other good effects to be anticipated from it, we may expect that the examination of our Museum by intelligent visitors, having Dr. Wilde's Catalogue in their hands, will diminish the number of disastrous accidents of this kind. The preparation of his Catalogue has entailed what was almost as necessary as the Catalogue itself—I mean, a re-arrangement of the articles in the Museum. In the execution of this part of the task committed to him, Dr. Wilde has entitled himself to our approval and gratitude. Whilst he has grouped together objects of the same class, which illustrate each other by their juxtaposition, he has preserved all the evidence he could find of the circumstances under which particular collections of objects were discovered on the same spot. I hope to be permitted, from this Chair, to congratulate the Academy on the completion of the work which Dr. Wilde has taken in hand, and to be the medium of conveying your thanks to him for the service which he is rendering, not only to the Academy, but to Irish archæology. Devoting his time and his skill to the production of this Catalogue, he has carried it on in spite of occasional difficulties, which have retarded, but not discouraged him. In the end he will have an ample reward for the labour which he has incurred, and for the sacrifices which he has made. I cannot suppose that a work involving so much detail is free from error; and no one would be more ready to acknowledge this than the author. But I am persuaded that it has been executed with diligence and in good faith; and work done under such inspiration will bear a severe scrutiny.

There are some additions which I hope to see made to our Museum before the office of President passes into other hands. I think that the scientific value of our Museum might be largely increased, if we were ena-

bled to procure good *fac-similes* of objects preserved elsewhere. For many (though not indeed for all) purposes, *fac-similes* serve as well as originals; they will perfectly indicate the form and colour of objects; the weight and material of the original articles may be recorded on the label attached to the *fac-similes*. It will only be in rare instances that the archæological student will require a more exact knowledge of the antiquities which he has occasion to examine.

We shall greatly enlarge the means of study in the Museum, when we shall become possessed of a good collection of photographs and drawings illustrating objects which could not find a place on our tables or in our cases. A valuable donation of this kind was made to us during the past year by Mr. G. Du Noyer, who presented to us a portfolio of above 120 accurate and well-executed drawings of various objects, architectural details, monuments, and inscriptions. It is to be hoped that others may follow the example which he has so liberally set, though we can seldom expect to find in one person the same union of archæological knowledge with artistic skill. The antiquary knows what to look for, but he ought to have the eye and the hand of the artist, enabling him to portray it in such a way as most perfectly sets before us what it is essential to represent. I feel pride in seeing some of my own sketches worked up by Mr. Du Noyer into drawings, and incorporated with this series. For the sketches themselves, as he received them, no merit but that of fidelity could be claimed. Without compromising that quality, he has superadded his masterly handling, and has made them not unworthy companions to his own originals.

We are indebted to her Majesty's Government for a most precious collection of antiquarian drawings made during the progress of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland. These drawings represent many objects which no longer exist—at least as they were figured. The tooth of time or the hand of Vandalism is constantly at work, defacing and destroying monuments which stood for centuries to attest the truth of ancient records. If even now, late though it be, trustworthy drawings and good photographs were made throughout Ireland of the many interesting objects which have been left unfigured or only imperfectly drawn by our antiquarian draughtsmen, we should preserve materials, the loss of which may deprive our art students and archæologists of the clue to many discoveries.

I will venture to direct attention to another matter, which ought to be kept in view by our antiquaries. I am aware that it is not easy to carry my suggestion into effect, because the course which I am about to recommend is attended by expense. Nevertheless, I think it not undeserving of notice. As yet no systematic explorations have been carried on by antiquaries in this country in places known to have been the seats of power and civilization in remote times—nothing like what has been done in England and Wales. If careful explorations were made at Tara by practised antiquaries, guided by the abundant information and the maps which Dr. Petrie has provided us with, can we doubt but that the labour of their search would be repaid by curious

and important discoveries? I do not lose sight of the fact that the regal structures which once stood there were of perishable materials; nevertheless, I am sanguine enough to wish to see the exploration attempted. In connexion with this matter, let me note a desideratum which we ought to be on the watch to supply. For ethnological purposes, it is of great moment that we should be possessed of a collection of undoubtedly ancient Irish crania. To have two or three is not enough; we ought to have several, in order to be able to draw safe conclusions with respect to the typical form or forms which characterise them. If our legends relating to the early inhabitants of Ireland be not absolutely fictions, we may yet hope to find in our ancient places of sepulture confirmation of the long-received accounts of Firbolgs, Tuatha De Danann, Fomorians, and Scoti.

In addition to its Museum, the Academy possesses the appliance of a library, from the use of which many of us have derived great advantages. I believe those libraries are most useful whose rules permit the loan of books to the readers. The student often wishes to carry on his reading at hours when libraries are closed. It is also convenient to him to be surrounded by his own books, the tools with which use has made him familiar. I rejoice, therefore, that we are permitted to exercise the privilege of borrowing books from the library. It will be found necessary, however, I apprehend, to impose some additional restrictions upon the loan of books which from their extreme rarity, or for other reasons, deserve to be placed on the same footing as our MSS. To regulations having this object in view, I trust, our members will submit without dissatisfaction. I must here express my regret that our library is not provided with such catalogues as we might desire to possess. The zeal and bibliographical knowledge of our newly-appointed librarian give us reason to count upon many improvements in the department over which he presides. Perhaps one of the first services which he will render us will be to supply information fuller and more exact than we now have as to the contents of our library. I doubt whether the catalogue of the printed books is quite complete; but I am sure that we have no perfect list of our MSS., much less have we an adequate enumeration of their contents. In the case of one class of MSS. this may be readily accounted for, though the fact is much to be regretted. The full and instructive catalogue of our Irish MSS., commenced by Mr. Eugene Curry, was a laborious work, requiring a considerable expenditure of time and research. To complete it upon the plan originally adopted, and to include in it descriptive notices of the Betham MSS., and others which have been since acquired, would be quite indispensable, if we wished to make our MSS. as available as they ought to be, for the benefit of persons consulting them. But the labour required for the completion of this work must be remunerated out of funds much ampler than what are now at the disposal of our library committee. This is a question, the further consideration of which I must leave to them. It is enough for me here to draw the at-

tention of the Academy to the fact that our Irish MSS. are to a great extent uncatalogued and undescribed. They are consequently far less useful than they might be to the few who are capable of studying them. Besides this, their safety is not as well secured as it ought to be.

The time will come when the judgment and liberality of those who have aided in the collection of our MSS. stores will be appreciated. Scholars trained to habits of scientific investigation will arise, I hope, amongst ourselves. But if Ireland does not furnish them, Germany will. Under their hands the volumes which we have accumulated will give up the materials which they provide for the elucidation of historical and philological questions. Hardly one of them will be found useless. From some, our Irish Niebuhr will extract all that relates to the earliest history of the country; he will study the "origines" set forth in our ancient books; he will compare them with documents of the same class relating to other countries; he will disentangle the threads of truth and fiction which are interwoven in them; he will relieve us from the discredit of having suffered this field of historical research to remain in a state but little advanced beyond that in which it was left by the author of Ogygia. Another will analyse our ancient romances, and will exhibit the relations which exist between them and the legends of Scotland and Wales, or Brittany and the other Continental countries. The fireside stories once current in Ireland may be made links in a chain of evidence to prove the kindred of nations, parting, thousands of years ago, from a common stock, though now at last blending their influences in the formation of that society in which the peculiarities of race are, to a great extent, becoming merged in the attributes of a Christian civilization.

And there are other tasks, laborious but full of fruit, which will be undertaken by students of our MSS. These volumes will supply to the philologist materials for the construction of an Irish dictionary. We know where to look for the foundation of that work. It must be laid in the existing dictionaries and glossaries, combined with the collections amassed in the life-long labours of Mr. Curry and Dr. O'Donovan. But we are speaking of an enterprise the accomplishment of which will require the co-operation of many hands. Mr. Whitley Stokes, Mr. Siegfried, and others, must take part in it, and their labours must be spread over many years. I trust that the Academy may be able to give an impulse to this work. At all events, individual members of it will contribute aid, when a plan of operation has been matured. The loss of time which has been incurred already has brought reproach upon us. Let us delay a little longer, and some foreign student, inheriting the diligence and the capacity of Zeuss, will put us to shame by executing the project, in planning which we have allowed years to pass by. To effect this object in any practicable way that has been proposed would be better than to persevere in the present course of doing nothing. For myself, I do not expect to witness the realization of the most perfect schemes which have been drawn up for the construction of an Irish dictionary. I trust, however,

that I may live long enough to see separate works executed, such as will enable the student of Irish to pursue his studies with the same facility which he enjoys in translating most other languages. It has been said repeatedly, but I will declare it again from this chair, that without an Irish dictionary much superior in every respect to the existing ones, an ordinary scholar would find himself unequal to the task of translating the ancient documents preserved in our library. Once possessed of a copious and accurate Irish lexicon, we shall be far advanced on the way towards many objects aimed at by Irish scholars. Philologists in other countries will pursue the investigations which they have entered upon with greater facility and more abundant success; and materials will be multiplied for the use of writers illustrating the early periods of Irish history.

In close connexion with the projects already mentioned stands one by the execution of which the Academy would, I think, do much to promote Irish studies. We lately had upon our table a *fac-simile* of a part of Doomsday Book, executed by what is called the photozincographic process. The copy of MS. thus made is sometimes more legible than the original. It is at the same time absolutely free from the errors introduced by the negligence, weariness, or mistakes of transcribers. I am also assured that copies can be produced by this process at a very moderate expense. If this be so, it would be a work worthy of the Academy to issue a series of *fac-simile* copies of our most ancient and curious Irish MSS. The advantages consequent on this step would be felt by persons engaged in various literary occupations. The philologist, the historian, the antiquary, the genealogist, the palæographer, would all rejoice in the possession of perfectly authentic materials upon which to work. The translation and elucidation of these documents would soon follow, and the public would obtain results which the most sanguine calculator must regard as very remote, if our present rate of progress be not accelerated.

We have long looked with curiosity upon the MS. of the Gospels preserved in the Domnach Airgid—a MS. which Dr. Petrie has shown good reason to believe is of the time of St. Patrick. I trust that our men of science and our archæologists will cooperate in developing this remarkable MS. It is now a solid mass of wrinkled folios agglutinated together; but as two of the outer leaves have been detached, expanded, and read, it seems no very daring effort to continue the development.

In counting up the accessions which have been made in recent times to our library, I ought not to leave unmentioned the precious collection of papers collected by the officers employed in the Ordnance Survey of Ireland; we have to thank her Majesty's Government for having authorised the grant of these documents to our library. They will be invaluable to persons seeking information on any matters relating to the history or topography of Ireland. They contain, as you are aware, the antiquarian materials intended for use in the memoir with which it was proposed to accompany the ordnance map

of this country. Everything was done, under a well-arranged system, to collect, by observation on the spot, and by reference to existing sources of information, all the details necessary to illustrate the ancient and modern topography of Ireland. Every Irishman must regret the abandonment of this great design. We are, however, permitted to rejoice in the prospect of attaining several of the objects at which it aimed by other and independent means. The Census Commissioners and the Statistical Society have taken up portions of the proposed work. The geological department of the survey has assumed wider dimensions, and a separate existence. The Archæological and Celtic Societies are gradually bringing into view a great deal of the antiquarian matter which had been prepared for publication in a different form in the Ordnance Survey Memoir. We have in these facts a proof that the entire work was ably designed. For my own part, I do not hesitate to express my belief, that to the individual who planned and organised it we are indebted for some of the most important advances which have been made within the last quarter of a century in the studies relating to the history, the language, and the antiquities of Ireland. To Lieutenant, now Major-General, Sir Thomas Larcom, belongs this honour. Finding elements of knowledge and talent, and sources of information, existing apart from one another, he brought them into combination, and obtained effects which they were otherwise incapable of producing. He will leave behind him many and conclusive evidences of his judgment and ability in dealing with Irish affairs; but in this room there will never be wanting a monument to commemorate his services, so long as we preserve the volumes which contain the papers of the Ordnance Survey. Before Lieutenant Larcom, we had indeed a Petrie to prove that the round towers were Christian belfries, and not Persian fire-towers; that cromleacs were places of sepulture, and not altars of human sacrifice; that caiseals were military structures, and not temples for Druidical worship. But our great antiquary stood alone. A school of followers was gathered round him, and disciplined in the offices of Mountjoy. If it had not been for the agencies there brought into operation, I doubt whether we should have been able to point to such proofs of learning and diligence as Dr. O'Donovan and Mr. Curry have since given to the world. There, as in every other department of human study, experience has taught us the infinite advantages of philosophic method and systematic labour.

These, gentlemen, are the lessons which it is especially incumbent upon us to master for ourselves, and to communicate by our example to others. So long as these lessons are taught and practised amongst us, we shall never find occasion to abate the affection and respect with which we now look up to our Academy.

IT WAS RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,—That the President be requested to allow his admirable Address, just delivered, to be printed in the Proceedings.